

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended by inserting the parentage of the present application, by correcting the reference to 1,2-propylene glycol, and by inserting appropriate specification headings, including a brief description of the drawings, wherein support for the description appears in the specification at page 4, prenumbered lines 32-34, and page 9, prenumbered lines 35-37, combined with page 10, prenumbered lines 6-7.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 11-28 remain pending in the application. Claims 11-27 are active; Claim 28 stands withdrawn from consideration.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the interview held May 17, 2007, in the above-identified application. During the interview, Applicants' attorney explained that the term "key components" is described in the specification. The discussion is summarized and expanded upon below.

The rejection of Claims 16, 18, 24 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the recital of the term "key components", is respectfully traversed. As Applicants' attorney pointed out to the Examiner during the above-referenced interview, the term "key components" is described in the specification beginning at page 8, line 27, i.e., key components are the low boilers and high boilers in the intermediate fraction which are critical for the separation of the 1,2-propylene glycol. Examples of such key components are described in the specification at page 9, prenumbered lines 28-31, e.g., water, methoxypropanol and hydroxyacetone as low boilers and dipropylene glycol and tripropylene glycol as high boilers. The claims are not intended to be limited to such specific compounds. As Applicants' attorney noted during the interview, and in accordance with well-known patent principles, an applicant is entitled to be his own lexicographer. See, e.g., *Multiform Desiccants Inc. v. Medzam Ltd.*, 133 F.3d 1473, 45 USPQ 2d 1429, 1432 (Fed. Cir. 1998) (copy enclosed).

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's acceptance of this argument for not requiring amendment to the claims.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The objection to the specification is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

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In response to the finding of a defective declaration, **submitted herewith** is a new declaration. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the requirement of a new declaration.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 11-15, 17, 19-23, 25 and 26, and the indication of allowability of the subject matter of Claims 6, 18, 24 and 27. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently-active claims in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Customer Number

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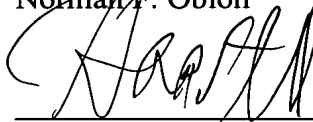
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